

# Anthem House to House

*Preparing your family for a Sunday Morning Gathering*

As we begin House Communities, we want the experience to be positive for everyone involved – including our kids! We're currently unable to have groups of kids meet in a separate space, so families will sit together for the gathering. Below is a list of ideas to help set your kids up for success on Sunday mornings.

## 1. Create a special 'Church Bag' with quiet toys, activities, & snacks

You know your child best, so what goes in your 'Church Bags' will be unique to your children. I would suggest that most, if not all, of the items are special to the 'Church Bag' and do not get taken out except for at your House Community. This will help keep the items novel and interesting to kids. A few ideas are below, but you will find many more online!

- Coloring book
- Sticker book
- Pipe cleaners
- Dry erase board
- Small bin of Legos
- "I Spy" book
- Lacing cards
- Fidget sticks like 'Bendeez'
- Silly putty
- Word search
- Wikki Stix
- Melissa & Doug Water Wow books
- Lift-a-flap board books
- Etch-a-sketch
- Clipboard & paper

## 2. Have your kids engage in physical activity before the gathering

Mornings can be busy, but kids that have had a chance to run around, stretch their bodies, expel energy, and play before coming to church may have an easier time participating in quiet activities during the gathering. So parents, lead by example and find an activity to do with your kiddos before coming to your House Community! (Dance party, anyone?)

## 3. Verbally prepare kids with your expectations

A couple days before church, sit down with your kids and explain your expectations for them during church. Make it clear what you expect of them, and why it's important.

*Suggested verbiage: "This Sunday is church day! We get to go to the \_\_\_\_\_ backyard to gather with other people from Anthem for church. Church is important because it's a time for Christians to gather together, worship God, and learn more about Him. It is also a time for people that don't know Jesus yet to hear the good news that He came to save us! But if people are loud or rowdy during church, someone might miss that important message. So we are going to sit together as a family and worship together!"*